

**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
INFORMATION ON CONSERVATION OFFICER
EMPLOYMENT**

Prerequisites to make application for attendance to the Conservation Officers Recruit Training School per 312 IAC 4-5-2 are as follows:

- (1) Must be a United States citizen.
- (2) Be not less than 21 years of age on the date of appointment.
- (3) Must possess the strength and agility needed to complete the physical conditioning and psychomotor skills requirements established by the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board and successfully complete physical agility testing.
- (4) Must demonstrate an ability to swim 100 yards without stopping and to tread water for at least 5 minutes.
- (5) Must possess a valid license to operate an automobile.
- (6) Is willing, if appointed, to reside and serve any place within Indiana, as designated by the Division Director.
- (7) Is willing to refrain from engaging in any political activity prohibited by law.
- (8) Must have achieved one of the following from a college or university accredited by an organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) :
 - A. An associates degree (2 year program) as evidenced by a certified transcript.
 - B. Completed at least two (2) years toward a bachelor degree (four (4) year program) as evidenced by a certified transcript.
- (9) Submit to and satisfy standard psychological testing.

All individuals must meet these requirements in order to compete in the screening process. Individuals who do not meet the basic requirements should not apply. If you meet these requirements and are interested, notify the Law Enforcement Division, Department of Natural Resources, 402 W. Washington St., Room W-255D, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, Attn: Recruit Applicant File. Your name will then be placed on file to be notified of the next examination.

INDIANA CONSERVATION OFFICER RECRUIT SCREENING PROCESS INFORMATION

The screening process used to select candidates for the Indiana Conservation Officers Recruit School is as follows:

- Phase 1. a. Test of your general knowledge.
 b. Job task preference with a short writing ability section.
 c. Vocational interest inventory exam.
 d. Personality Profile
- Phase 2. Application completed and character and background investigations completed.
- Phase 3. Structured interviews and psychological profiling.
- Phase 4. Conditional Job Offer/Medical and physical fitness evaluation and swim test.
- Phase 5. Recruit Training School (16 weeks).

This process tests only that general knowledge you already have and your personal preferences and vocational interests. There is no specific area of study that would be beneficial as these tests only cover your personal feelings and general knowledge.

Selection is made based on points awarded in Phase 1,2 and 3 and successful completion of Phase 4 allowing us to rank applicants. Persons participating in our screening process are only competing against other individuals in the same screening process, not against a rigid set of standards.

Screening processes are not regularly scheduled and only take place when a recruit training school is to be conducted.

PROBATION

Officers are assigned to a county upon successful completion of the training school and are on probation for a period of one year. All probationary officers must successfully complete the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Basic Training Course and the Division's field training program during their first year of service. New officers are placed in counties based upon existing openings. Transfer requests are considered as county assignments become vacant.

SALARY-RETIREMENT-INSURANCE

The Probationary Officer receives a beginning salary of \$1,107.85 bi-weekly with a promotion after the first year and a matrix increase yearly thereafter up to ten years of service. Officers are covered by Workman's Compensation, a retirement program and entitled to join the State Life Insurance Plan, a Group Medical, Dental Health and Vision Care Program, the State Employee's Credit Union and the State Employee's Deferred Compensation Plan.

UNIFORMS-EQUIPMENT

All uniforms, firearms, vehicles, and equipment used in performance of duty are furnished by the Department.

VACATION-SICK LEAVE

Vacation and benefits of the Department sick leave program are available to the officer.

September 28, 2001

INDIANA CONSERVATION OFFICERS

DUTIES

Serves as a uniformed law enforcement officer for the Department of Natural Resources to enforce and uphold all federal and state statutes with particular attention to those related to conservation of natural resources. In the course of work the incumbent may perform any or all of the following:

- Enforce laws, regulations and rules dealing with permits and licenses, fishing, hunting, trapping, shooting, boating, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles (ATV), forest fire prevention, etc;
- Enforce criminal and traffic laws on properties owned, licensed or leased by the Department of Natural Resources;
- Aid and instruct the general public on such matters as water safety, firearms, boating, camping, fishing, hunting, trapping;
- Patrol on foot, by boat, car, ATV, or plane, reservoirs, lakes, rivers, streams and State and Federal forests, Department of Natural Resources properties and rural areas;
- Provide information, explain laws and regulations to the public;
- Aid scouts, farmers and other citizens in planning and implementing conservation projects;
- Make arrests, issue citations and warnings, appear and testify in court, as well as obtain, prepare and submit evidence;
- Perform public relations duties such as public speaking, radio and television programs, attending meetings, fairs, sporting events and related functions;
- Engage in special projects such as wildlife surveys and court proceedings;
- Conducts investigations of swimming, hunting, boating, auto and other accidents as well as thefts and vandalism on Department of Natural Resources properties, wildlife damage complaints, timber thefts, etc;
- Inspect tree and shrub (nursery) dealers, water, oil and gas wells, classified forests, passenger boats, bait dealers and wildlife permit holders;
- Investigate prospective Department of Natural Resources employees;
- Assist in emergencies such as floods, storms, tornadoes, and forest and grass fires;
- Supervise the recovery of the bodies of drowning victims.
- May perform radio dispatch and administrative duties.

I. JOB REQUIREMENTS AND DIFFICULTY OF WORK

- Knowledge of all state statutes, particularly those pertaining to conservation.
- Knowledge of Department of Natural Resources regulations, rules and directives.
- Knowledge of outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, trapping, boating, snowmobiling, etc.
- Ability to operate such equipment as autos, trucks, ATVs, snowmobiles, motorboats, fire fighting trucks and equipment, digging equipment, and perform routine preventative maintenance as necessary.
- Specialized training in such areas as first aid, firearms, fire fighting, motorboats, police administration, swimming and lifesaving, civil defense, wildlife, vegetation and environmental protection, self defense and photography.
- Ability to speak publicly and to communicate effectively with people.
- Knowledge of and ability to use two-way radios, fingerprint kits, cameras, evidence testing equipment, fishing, hunting and other sporting equipment.
- Must have or be able to obtain a valid Indiana drivers license.
- Must successfully complete the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Basic program.

****NOTE:** Indiana Conservation Officers do not routinely enforce traffic laws on public highways.

II. RESPONSIBILITY

Officers normally work independently and encounter situations requiring instantaneous judgment and decision making. Instructions are general although specific assignments may require more detailed instructions. Consequences of error can be as high as the loss of human life including that of the officer.

Guidelines in the form of laws, rules and regulations are generally standardized. However, incumbent must use judgment in the application and enforcement of these laws. The officer may make recommendations on revision of outdoor safety regulations and wildlife management as well as any other laws or situations which are the responsibility of the Department of Natural Resources.

III. PERSONAL WORK RELATIONSHIPS

Officers work with the public, other conservation officers, and other law enforcement officers to enforce the laws of the state and the policies and regulations of the Department of Natural Resources. Also work to educate and assist the general public in matters of conservation of our natural resources, outdoor safety and wildlife management.

IV. PHYSICAL EFFORT AND WORK ENVIRONMENT

Officers frequently patrol forest areas on foot, by car, and/or by boat in all types of weather. Work may, on occasion involve running, swimming and forest fire fighting. Work sometimes involves heavy lifting and extended periods of walking.

September 28, 2001